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AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

Volume 2, Issue 3

May/June 1990

PLWHIV Group Activities

Hello! my name is Dana King and I am a participant in the Persons Living With HIV group. While news of our group may not be news... the fact that we are applying for societal status may be. we will soon be known as the Edmonton Persons Living With HIV Society (what a mouth full of letters). Having formed a coalition of those of us with an AIDS diagnosis and those of us with HIV+ status, we are committed to organizing and empowering ourselves. We are our best advocates and we denounce any form of direct or indirect "victimization" of persons living with HIV.

It is important, however, to mention that while we maintain complete autonomy we are in partnership with our

community support agency (namely the AIDS Network) with whom we have formed a negotiation committee in hopes that we will acquire more needed space at the AIDS Network office. This is truly an exciting time in the evolution of our group... with the major primary needs being met and support services through the AIDS Network. This leaves us free to promote our secondary needs more clearly than before. It is clear to me that without the tangible and loving support of the ANE, the courageous efforts of those PLWHIV that have died, I could not be enjoying the quality of life I am currently, nor could any newly diagnosed PLWHIV aspire to "live with AIDS".

Dana King

Mugs Available

We now have hand-potted mugs with the Network logo on them. They will be selling for \$12.00. If you are interested, please see Heather H. or Steven in the volunteer department.



Pritchard: Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

AIDS in the Workplace

Excerpt from TV conference May 16, 1989 "AIDS in the Workplace"

Quote of Dr. David J. Roy - Clinical Research Institute of Montreal.

"...and our sexuality is implied in everything we do. AIDS I think - and here I'm going out on a limb, a very thin limb. AIDS I think may well be - it has the potential of being the laboratory or the forum within which all of us in society would increasingly be invited to become more civilized with respect to the sexual orientations of people who are different from ourselves, with respect to what they desire sexually.

I mean, it took me a long time to realize that people who were sexually different from myself also needed to be hugged, to be kissed, to be loved, to be protected, to be encouraged - and it seems to me that sexuality is not good or bad, right or wrong, depending on whether or not it's homosexual of heterosexual, but it's good or bad, right or wrong depending on whether or not it encourages, inspires, consoles on the one hand or on the other trivializes, penalizes - enslaves and throws away people - that's the dividing line. The dividing line isn't whether or not someone is homo or hetero- Now to ask a lot of people to accept that as an idea is where I'm on a thin limb, but it would seem to me that AIDS is a challenge to us to become much more tolerant and civilized with respect to the sexual desires and feeling of other people."

Summer Employment

Three summer, temporary employment grants have been approved under federal SEED, and provincial STEP programs: Laura Horne, working on a SEED grant, will be the Community Liaison Assistant, Canadace Toews, on a STEP grant, will be the Community Development Assistant, and David Nelson, also on a SEED grant, will look at compiling information on educational resources and needs in the Edmonton native community in cooperation with other agencies. All of these projects will last for four months, and we welcome them to the Network Team.

Look What's New

AIDS AND THE LAW - A GUIDE FOR THE PUBLIC

Harlon L. Dalton & Scott Burris 1987

* Comprehensive survey of the legal issues encountered by anyone dealing with AIDS.

AIDS ISSUES -CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE

David G. Hallman (ed.) 1989

* An overview of the complex ethical and theological issues confronting global societies as we come to terms with the AIDS crisis. This book is drawn from the proceedings of an international consultation of 150 theologians, social ethicists, Persons With AIDS, health care professionals, community service representatives, and members of church demoninations representing the United States and Canada. Three areas: social consequence of AIDS, illness and health, and sexuality.

Staff Changes

At the end of April, the Network said good-bye to Jason Babyn, who worked as Assistant Volunteer Coordinator since last fall. Thank you Jason for your hard work and support. We wish you all the best in your studies and future career.

On May 1, 1990 Steven Ungerer joined the Network as Assistant to the Volunteer Program. Steven will be working 25 hours per week in this permanent part-time position. Steven brings a variety of work and educational experience with him. Volunteers will be hearing from Steven over the next few weeks. We welcome Steven to the Network team.

March Activities of the PLWHIV Group

Our members have been very busy with two involved in the Volunteer program as panelists in the "Living With AIDS" session. Another two of us have gone on the road with the Interact Players in "AIDS: Life in the Bloodstream" reaching out and touching several thousands persons in Slave Lake, Falher and Lamont Alberta. Not to mention many individual appearances at Grant MacEwan Community College. One of our members has chosen to put a face on AIDS with respect to natives with HIV and we are very proud of him. Yet another member continues to chronicle his journey on CBC 740 am on your dial.

It remains important to remember the passing of two of our brothers, Lorne L. and Randall P. in March. We are empowered by their spirits.

Dana King

Buddy Support Volunteers

The Buddy Support Program was one of the first services developed at the AIDS network of Edmonton. The program was expanded from concentration on PWA's to involve family members, partners and people who are HIV positive.

Buddies are caring, empathetic volunteers who provide expertise and support, which are critical aspects in helping people through the progression of their illness. That expertise and support is also critical in helping to deal with the non-medical issues as they arise. People in all stages of infection and their primary caregivers have recognized the need for this group of special, supportive volunteers.

Because they help people through daily struggles, they are the front line. It has been said that: "Buddies are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job".



Cap'n Condom...

There was a minimum of conversation. They looked nervous, like students prior to an exam. Anticipation. People stared off into space, admired the carpets, ceiling, artwork. Only a handful of participants, each here for his or her own reasons. Some looking for an answer, any answer to the damnable question of sex: How to approach, how to ask, negotiate, get involved, yet still play safe. And enjoy it at the same time? Seems difficult, confusing even. But little did they know that in a few short hours new bonds, friendships would be made, opinions shared, new information learned, and old myths laid to rest. All in all, it promised to be a very positive experience for all of us.

I sit in an Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop, in disguise, of course. Were I to attend as my regular persona, Captain Condom, I would be recognized, and be unable to get non-biased responses during the workshop. Oh well, that's the price of fame (or infamy, depending upon how you view it). I wanted to chronicle how the participants of a workshop evaluated all of the information they were given, how it affected them. Just to see if people were learning about Safer Sex. They were...

As everyone shared their feelings and experiences, we each saw a hint of fear, a glimmer of hope. Individuals we were, yet we found a common thread among us. We each had been affected by the health crisis, and the workshop gave us a venue to talk about our fear, our anger, our

frustration. At the same time imparting valuable information about health and, of course, sex. By the end of the workshop, the group was noticeably fatigued. But there was a calm, peaceful aura surrounding each person. Everyone had learned something - whether it was how to have fun with safer sex (something that is guaranteed at the workshop) - or learning what is and what is not a risky sex practice (Note: according to the workshop facilitators, the Canadian AIDS Society has stated that there are only three "high risk" activities, out of a list of twenty-six supplied possibilities, and if these three could be modified or eliminated, AIDS as an epidemic would disappear in under a decade).

Everyone should take part in this type of workshop. It is an important growth process, one that anyone affected by AIDS IN ANY WAY should go through. The workshop has, can, and will open eyes and hearts, and allow people to realise that we really are not alone, that there are others experiencing the same feelings of fear and anxiety.

I encourage all people, regardless of gender, orientation, age, ethnic background, etc., to enroll in an Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop. The time is well spent, and the information worthwhile. You'll meet all sorts of people, just like you and me. Human.

Play Safe!

See you soon,

Cap'n Condom.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Bingos** The ANE will be starting Bingos in July at the Fort Road Bingo hall. We will find out the dates of the games in early June. In the meantime, we are starting a list of people available to help with them. We need volunteers to help organize and administer games as well as volunteers to help run them. Please call Anne or Lil at 424-4767 if you can help.
NOTE - Bingo volunteers do not need to be trained volunteers. Family and friends are welcome.
- Reception** 3 people are needed to answer telephones from 10-2 weekdays. Please contact Lil.
- Computers** (Short-term project). To input mailing and donor lists and set up a system where lists can be pulled in different formats using MultiMatre and Wordperfect 5.0. Call Lil.
- Drivers** Needed on an ad-hoc basis to assist clients. Contact Nick or Edward.
- Newsletter** Someone is needed to help input articles into the computer and format this newsletter once every two months. No experience is necessary (training will be provided). Contact Steve or Heather H.
- Safer Sex** Male volunteers are needed to help promote the Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshops. This would involve going out to the Gay Bars in the city to hand out information, talk to potential workshop participants, and hand out materials about Safer Sex. Contact Heather H. for further details.
- AIDS Quilt** We are looking for quilters to make a general memorial panel for the ANE. Anyone interested in helping please call Heather H.

Upcoming Events

- Thurs., May 10** Drug Assessment Workshop. Randy Harris of AADAC will be facilitating this workshop and will discuss how to assess drug use by clients.
- Thurs., May 10** Buddy Support Volunteers. Meeting at Network Office, 7:00pm.
- Thurs., May 17** Bereavement Workshops. A series of 4 workshops focusing on grief and mourning is being offered. They will be held on 4 consecutive Thursday evenings (May 17th through June 7th). Resource persons have been sought out to lead each evening session. The series is offered to any family members, partners, or close friends of a person who has died of HIV infection/AIDS. Each session

will address information and practical coping strategies and also personal issues of the participants. Please contact Dave Fitzgerald for more information and to register.

- Thurs., May 17 Get together for Brigitte and Erin. A social is planned to help Brigitte welcome the newest addition to her family. All are welcome. It will be held at the Network Office from 7:30-8:30pm. Lil is starting a book fund: you may either buy a children's book and give it to Lil, or she will accept cash donations and use them to purchase books.
- Sun., May 27 Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop. 1 - 5pm. Call the Safer Sex Hotline (491-8086) to register.
- Thurs., June 7 Vitalize '90 Conference. A series of workshops and seminars dealing with volunteer issues. At the Capri Centre in Red Deer. Cost is \$ 75.00 (excluding accomodation). If you register before May 11, there is free bus service from Edmonton. A brochure is available at the Network.
- to Sat., June 9
- Thurs., June 14 Network Benefit evening at the Vik Gallery. 10129 104 St. 8 - 10 pm. Artists, entertainers and fun for all. The Network will be mailing out invitations and selling tickets. Come and help make this event a real success!
- Thurs., June 14 Hospital Visitor Volunteers. Meeting at the Network office, 7:00pm.
- Thurs., June 21 Volunteer Information Night. For future prospective volunteers. At the Network office, 7 - 8pm.
- Sat., June 23 Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop. 1 - 5pm. Call the Safer Sex Hotline (491-8086) to register.

DON'T FORGET!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE JULY/AUG NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, JUNE 8.

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER NAME CHANGE

Notice our new format! Well, to go along with it, we would like to propose a name change!

The following are three names which have been suggested:

1. Touching Base
2. Connections
3. VIP News (Volunteers In Print)

We would love your input. Please feel free to fill out the form below or phone in your choice to either Heather H. or Steven. Any comment on the new format would also be greatly appreciated.

My choice for the Internal Newsletter
name change is:

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MAY

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes:	1	2	3	4	5
		7pm Memorial Service 7pm Worried Well	7pm Speaker's Bureau Trng. 7:30pm Education Comm.		
6 PLWA Meeting	7 7pm PWA Group	8 5pm Human Rec. Committee	9 5pm Task Force 7pm Family Grp.	10 7pm Buddy Volunteers 7pm AADAC Workshop	11 12
13	14 4pm Fundraising Committee 6pm Board of Directors 7pm PWA Group	15	16 7pm Worried Well 7-9pm GALA AGM	17 7pm Bereavement Group 7:30 Brigitte's Shower	18 19
20	21 HOLIDAY! VICTORIA DAY	22 7pm Support Services Comm. 7pm Advocacy Committee	23 7pm Family Grp.	24 7pm Bereavement Group	25 26
27 Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop 1-5pm 491-8086	28 6pm Finance Committee 7pm PWA Group	29	30 6pm Executive Committee 7pm Worried Well	31 7pm Bereavement Group	Notes:

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SUNDAY

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FATHER'S DAY

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ST. JOHN BAPTIST

7pm PWA Group

6pm Board of Directors
7pm PWA Group

4:30pm Fundraising Committee
7pm PWA Group

6pm Finance Committee
7pm PWA Group

6pm Education Committee
7pm Family Grp.

5pm Human Rec. Committee
7pm Worried Well

7pm Family Grp.

7pm Worried Well

Vitalize '90 Conf. (Red Deer) Group

7pm Hospital Visitor Vols.
8-10pm Network Benefit at VIK Gallery

7pm Prospective Volunteer Info. Night

AIDS Quilt Display at Citadel (Thru July 1)

Vitalize '90 Conf.

Eroticizing Safer Sex Workshop
1-5pm 491-8086